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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 002321

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Verheugen: I have Been Deceived by the Greek-Cypriots -
Hurriyet
No Release of DEP Deputies - Hurriyet
State Security Court Confirms Conviction of DEP Deputies -
Sabah
Karamanlis Promises to Support Turkey's EU Entry - Sabah
Historic Confession From Verheugen - Milliyet
Suicide Bombers Kill 68 in Basra - Milliyet
Iraq Becomes a Fire-Ball - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

CHP Deputy Oymen: TGS Not Given Details of Annan Plan -
Cumhuriyet
Denktas Warns Against Attacks on 'yes' Supporters -
Cumhuriyet
Nationalists' Terror Attacks Increase in Cyprus - Radikal
No Change in the DEP Case - Radikal
Verheugen: The Greek Cypriots Deceived Me - Radikal
State Security Court Dynamite Sent to the EU - Yeni Safak
EU Believes it has Been Cheated By Greek Cypriots - Zaman

BRIEFING

Cyprus: "Hurriyet" reports that the pre-referendum tension is growing in Cyprus. Yesterday, a group of supporters of the UN plan was attacked by Turkish nationalist groups who had come to the island from Turkey. All papers highlight EU Commissioner Verheugen's remarks to the EU Parliament that he had been 'deceived' by the Greek Cypriot Administration. Verheugen charged that the Greek Cypriots had indicated their support for the Annan plan throughout the negotiation process, and only now are pressing for its rejection. "Aksam" reports that Verheugen also said that the Turkish side should not be held responsible for the possible failure of the Annan plan at referendum. "Milliyet" writes that Verheugen expressed the EU's regret for admitting the Greek Cypriots to the EU without a Cyprus solution. Meanwhile, the Turkish and Greek Prime Ministers met in Sarajevo. Karamanlis reiterated that the Greek Government would not pressure the Greek Cypriots to approve the UN plan, but he confirmed that Greece will support Turkey's EU membership bid 'to the end.'

DEP Deputies: A State Security Court in Ankara confirmed the conviction of Leyla Zana and three other former parliamentarians from the former Kurdish nationalist party, DEP. "Yeni Safak" predicts that the verdict will have a negative impact on Turkey's efforts to obtain a date for the start of accession talks with the EU. "Hurriyet" notes that the court verdict drew harsh criticism from the EU Commission. A Commission spokesman expressed 'deep regret' over the verdict, adding that the trial was followed closely by the commission. EU Enlargement Commissioner Verheugen also criticized the decision, saying that the verdict raises 'serious questions' about Turkey's implementation of its EU harmonization reforms.

EDITORIAL OPINION

Cyprus/Bosnia-Herzegovina

"Different views"

Soli Ozel commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (4/22): "If a solution is found to the Cyprus problem, Turkey will have transformed its foreign policy from one that was closed and isolationist to one that is open to global interaction. Turkey, which is among the important shapers of the post-9/11, post-Iraq war world, should reposition itself and more clearly define its interests. . It appears that the Turkish Cypriots will vote for the Annan Plan. . It must be remembered that rejection of the UN-backed peace plan will mean approving the division of the island. . Whatever the decision of the Greek Cypriots may be, the status quo in the north will not remain unchanged if the Turks vote `yes.'"

"A 'No' won't save the Greek Cypriots from Annan"

Mehmet Ali Birand wrote in the mass appeal "Posta" (4/22): "If the Southern Cypriots reject the Annan Plan in the April 24 referenda, the EU will probably press for a second vote in the course of time. If the outcome is negative again, a process for official recognition of the `TRNC' will be launched. Under such circumstances, the Greek Cypriots will not be allowed to demand withdrawal of Turkish troops or ask for return of their properties in the north. The Greeks must choose between the Annan Plan and the division of Cyprus. . The Greek Cypriots would not vote against a settlement if they could see that no matter how long it takes, a solution to the Cyprus problem is possible only within the framework of the Annan Plan."

"First genocide against Muslims recognized"

Mim Kemal Oke observed in the conservative/mass appeal "H0-Tercuman" (4/22): "In an historic decision, the war crimes tribunal at The Hague has officially recognized as `genocide' the killing of 7,000 Bosniacs in Srebrenica in 1995. . This decision might bring significant consequences. Now Muslims have a similar status to that of Jews -- both in the diaspora and in Israel - following the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis. . I am afraid that the Islamic world, which remains both lethargic and dysfunctional, is not fully prepared to make use of such a significant opportunity. It must be remembered that this court resolution came at a time of prevailing Islamist terror. The Islamic world must not let this decision die. The Islamic world must eliminate the violence within. If the Islamic world remains insensitive in the face of terrorism, it will likely act sluggishly in making use of this decision."

EDELMAN